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Carnforth Urban District Council



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1958.

CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
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R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

O F

H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

1958.

C A R N F O R T H U R B A N D I S T R I C T
C O U N C I L

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C O N T E N T S.

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SECTION A.	STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.	Page 8
SECTION B.	GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.	Page 14
SECTION C.	PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	Page 18
SECTION D.	SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.	Page 22

CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1958.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Carnforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1958 on the health and sanitary conditions of Carnforth Urban District.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1958 was 3,870, an increase of 20 on the previous year. At the 1951 census the population was 3,388.

There were 72 registered live births during the year, equivalent to a crude birth rate of 18.6 per 1,000 population, very near to the average rate of 18.7 for the preceding five years.

Deaths from all causes amounted to 44, 2 fewer than in 1957, giving a crude death rate of 11.4 per 1,000 population compared with an average rate of 11.5 for the preceding five years. Once again, heart diseases were responsible for the highest proportion of deaths. Cancer caused 16% of the total, and accidents over 10%.

For the fourth successive year, there were no deaths from maternal causes. One infant died before reaching his first birthday, giving the lowest infant mortality rate recorded in recent years in this District, 13.9 per 1,000 live births.

Only 10 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, compared with 129 in 1957. 1958 was an inter-epidemic year for measles, and a rise in the notifications is anticipated in 1959.

In the section dealing with environmental hygiene your Public Health Inspector has reported fully on the various services which play an important part in maintaining and improving living and working conditions in the community.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 have now been in operation for three years and it is worthy of record that during this period the majority of food shops, hotels and cafes have adopted the use of refrigerated display cabinets for perishable foods which is a welcome advance on former practices. This goes far to reduce possible contamination.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the continued interest shown by the Council in all matters relating to Public Health.

Yours faithfully,

R.W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

S E C T I O N A.

S T A T I S T I C S A N D S O C I A L
C O N D I T I O N S O F T H E A R E A .

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)	1,504
POPULATION (Census 1931)	3,139
" (Census 1951)	3,388
" (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1958)	3,870
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951)	1,095
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1958)	1,332
RATEABLE VALUE	£37,936
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£149

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Railway and Agricultural work.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1958

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	37	34	71
(Illegitimate)	—	1	1
	37	35	72
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			18.6
STILL BIRTHS - No. Registered	M	F	
Rate per 1,000 total Births (live and still)		1	1
	M	F	13.7
DEATHS (All Causes) No. Registered	20	24	44
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.4
DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED CAUSES:-			
Heart Disease (all forms).....	10	6	16
Cancer (all forms)	2	5	7
Accidents (all forms).....	2	3	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis.....			Nil
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total Births			Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 year)	M	F	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	1	—	1
			13.9
DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 4 weeks)	M	F	
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	1	—	1
			13.9

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES
OF DEATH DURING 1958.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, of breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm of lung etc.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	4	5
Coronary disease, angina	6	2	8
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart diseases	4	3	7
Other circulatory diseases	-	2	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Gastritis	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4	5
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	3	4
Suicide	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
ALL CAUSES	20	24	44
	==	==	==

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND THE PERIOD 1953-57

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Infant Mortality		Infant Mortality		Neonatal Mortality	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1958	72	18.6	44	11.4	1	13.7	Nil	Nil	1	13.9	1	13.2
1957	93	24.2	46	11.9	1	10.6	Nil	Nil	3	32	1	11
1956	66	17.1	32	8.3	1	15	Nil	Nil	4	61	2	50
1955	71	18.6	46	12.1	1	14	Nil	Nil	1	14	1	14
1954	74	20.4	49	13.5	2	26	1	13.16	4	54	2	27
1953	48	13.4	43	12.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	42	1	24
Average 1953-57		18.7		11.5		13.1		2.6		40.6		26.6

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.00) = 18.6
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.11) = 12.6

S E C T I O N B.

G E N E R A L P R O V I S I O N O F
H E A L T H S E R V I C E S
F O R T H E A R E A

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

In sections C and D of the report full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Carnforth Urban District, for which services the Council are directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council, on which committee your Council has one representative, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following services, available to the inhabitants of Carnforth as well as to those of neighbouring districts.

(1) DOMICILIARY SERVICES.

For the benefit of residents in the area two district nurse/midwives are resident in Carnforth, others being available nearby at Yealand Redmayne and Bolton-le-Sands. Three health visitors, who are also trained nurses, are centred on the School Clinic in Market Street. Several Home Helps are resident in Carnforth and Warton.

(2) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

This service is closely correlated with the domiciliary midwifery, health visiting and domestic help services, by which means the mother can receive advice and care for herself and her child as well as help in the home during and after her confinement.

During 1958 the average attendance at the Carnforth child welfare centre was 46.96 children per weekly session.

(3) COMBINED SCHOOL CLINIC AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

At 21 Market Street, Carnforth, in addition to the child welfare session on Tuesday afternoons (2 - 4p.m.) a minor ailment clinic for school children is held on Friday mornings (9.30 - 11.30 a.m.) An eye clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings, and a dental clinic on each Thursday morning and afternoon. A clinic is held every Thursday afternoon at which expectant mothers attend for relaxation, exercises and the teaching of mothercraft.

(4) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and vaccination against smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic. Since 1956 vaccination against poliomyelitis and tuberculosis have also been available to children in certain age groups.

(5) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Carnforth area is served by ambulances based on the Lancaster and Morecambe stations.

(6) OTHER SERVICES.

Certain other services are organised on a divisional basis, without allocation of staff to particular areas. Thus 3 mental health workers and one tuberculosis health visitor cover the whole division. The arrangements for sending persons recovering from illness to convalescent homes are made through the Divisional Health Office, Lancaster.

(7) WELFARE SERVICES - NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee:-

- (a) Residential Accommodation: For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them accommodation is provided at Bay View, The Laurels and Fair Elms at Lancaster; at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe; Moor Platt and The Hermitage at Caton.
- (b) Temporary Accommodation: In case of urgent need, e.g. fire, flood or eviction, temporary shelter is provided by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.
- (c) Handicapped Persons: For persons who are blind, deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare services and facilities are made available, either through the agency of voluntary organisations or directly by the County Council.
- (d) Homes for Disabled and/or Old Persons. There are seven homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary/or private bodies. These are registered and inspected regularly by the divisional medical staff.

(8) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and specimens in connection with infectious diseases is carried out by Dr. Robertson and his staff at the new Public Health Laboratory, Preston. Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(9) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:-

- (a) Tuberculosis:- Chest Clinic, Beaumont Hospital,
Lancaster.
- (b) Venereal Diseases:- Special Treatment Centre,
Royal Lancaster Infirmary.
- (c) Deaf Aid Clinic:- A session for the provision of
hearing aids is held at 21, Market Street, Carnforth
on the first Wednesday of each month.

S E C T I O N C.

P R E V A L E N C E O F , A N D C O N T R O L
O V E R I N F E C T I O U S D I S E A S E S .

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(other than Tuberculosis) CASES NOTIFIED
DURING 1958

Age Periods - Years						
Diseases	Total Cases	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-
Whooping Cough	4	1	2		1	
Measles	3		1	2		
Scarlet Fever	1				1	
Dysentery	2				2	
TOTAL CASES	10	1	3	2	4	

TUBERCULOSIS

During 1958 no new cases of tuberculosis were notified and no deaths from this disease were recorded.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Since 1948 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in Carnforth. The young mothers of to-day do not realise the danger of this disease but localised outbreaks still occur sporadically in this country. Despite the growing number of other immunisation and vaccination procedures, it is just as important now as it was 20 years ago that efforts be continued to ensure a high level of immunisation against diphtheria.

In the following table the numbers of Carnforth children immunised against diphtheria in the last five years are compared.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN CARNFORTH

1954 - 1958.

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary Immunisations during the Year.

Year	Age at final injection					Total under 5yrs	5-9	10-14	Total 5-14 years	Total All
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5					
1958	60	7	4	1	1	73	6	1	7	
1957	69	2	2	-	2	75	3	1	4	
1956	52	12	1	3	-	68	3	1	4	
1955	61	14	-	5	1	81	8	4	12	
1954	38	21	2	-	-	61	9	1	10	

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection, i.e. subsequent to complete course

Year	Age Group			Total under 15 years
	0-4	5-9	10-14	
1958	8	59	68	135
1957	5	38	27	70
1956	14	79	30	123
1955	1	66	25	92
1954	9	77	23	109

S E C T I O N D.

S A N I T A R Y C I R C U M S T A N C E S
O F T H E A R E A

WATER SUPPLY.

Water abundant in quantity is applied from the Lancaster Corporation reservoir situated at Withnets, which has a capacity of 52 million gallons.

It receives adequate treatment by both chlorination and filtration, and it is analysed regularly by the Undertaking, in addition to which samples are taken by this Authority. Results show it to be satisfactory in quality.

All but 9 of the houses within the Carnforth Urban District are supplied from the public mains, the remainder (outlying farms and cottages) having private supplies. The expense of laying mains to these premises appears to be the one prohibiting factor towards the removal of these unsatisfactory supplies.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole area is by gravity. In general it is the "combined" system, though a "separate" system has been introduced to deal with a site of approximately 140 houses, whereby rainwater from roofs and roads is discharged to an open watercourse in order to avoid any additional loading of the Highfield and Kellet Road sewers.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge on ebb tide. Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each purifying the sewage by sedimentation and filtration and discharging the effluent into adjacent streams.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

With the exception of 9 farms and 22 houses, all habitable premises within the Urban District are connected to the public sewer. Of this total all except 9 have water closets and the remaining sanitary accommodation is made up of 7 pail closets and 2 privy middens.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continue to tip at Cote Stones by agreement with the Lancaster Rural District Council and arrangements are very satisfactory to the Council.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is made and trade refuse is collected from various premises. Approximately 1400 bins per week are dealt with.